THOMPSON et al.
Application No. 09/589,200
April 2, 2004

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

- 1. (previously presented) A method of generating a process plan comprising:
 - i) storing at least one generic process plan,
 - ii) storing at least one non-generic process element containing a predetermined pattern,
 - searching said at least one generic process plan for the predetermined pattern contained by at least one non-generic process element,
 - on detection of the predetermined pattern, inserting content from said at least one non-generic process element into the generic process plan to newly generate a process plan so that the newly generated process plan contains process instructions that are non-identical than that of the generic process plan, and
 - v) outputting the newly generated process plan.
- 2. (original) A method according to claim 1 further comprising the steps of receiving for storage at least one generic process plan and receiving for storage at least one non-generic process element.

- 3. (previously presented) A method according to claim 1 wherein each stored generic process plan is indexed in accordance with a goal to be achieved by the plan and the method further comprises:
 - vi) receiving a goal input, and
 - vii) selecting a generic process plan for searching, said selection being in accordance with the received goal input.
- 4. (previously presented) A method according to claim 1 wherein at least one non-generic process element comprises resource information, identifying one or more resources to support a process step in a generated process plan.
- 5. (original) A method according to claim 4 wherein each stored nongeneric process element comprising resource information is indexed in accordance with one or more relevant resources.
- 6. (previously presented) A method according to claim 1 wherein at least one inserted process element comprises data.
- 7. (previously presented) A method according to claim 1 wherein at least one non-generic process element comprises context specific method steps or data and is indexed for storage according to the relevant context.

- 8. (original) A method according to claim 7 wherein the context for at least one non-generic process element is service type.
- 9. (previously presented) A method according to claim 7 wherein the context for at least one non-generic process element is customer type.
- 10. (previously presented) Apparatus for use in generating a process plan, the apparatus comprising:
 - i) a generic process plan store,
 - ii) a non-generic process element store,
 - means for searching at least one process plan for at least one predetermined pattern contained in a non-generic process element,
 - iv) means for inserting content from said at least one non-generic process
 element into the generic process plan on detection of the predetermined
 pattern so as to newly generate a process plan so that the newly generated
 process plan contains process instructions that are non-identical than that of
 the generic process plan, and
 - v) an output for newly generated process plans.
- 11. (previously presented) An apparatus according to claim 10 further comprising means for receiving for storage at least one generic process plan and receiving for storage at least one non-generic process element.

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- 12. (previously presented) An apparatus according to claim 10 wherein each stored generic process plan is indexed in accordance with a goal to be achieved by the plan and the apparatus further comprises:
 - vi) means for receiving a goal input, and
 - vii) means for selecting a generic process plan for searching, said selection being in accordance with the received goal input.
- 13. (previously presented) An apparatus according to claim 10 wherein at least one non-generic process element comprises resource information, identifying one or more resources to support a process step in a generated process plan.
- 14. (previously presented) An apparatus according to claim 13 wherein each stored non-generic process element comprising resource information is indexed in accordance with one or more relevant resources.
- 15. (previously presented) An apparatus according to claim 10 wherein at least one inserted process element comprises data.
- 16. (previously presented) An apparatus according to claim 10 wherein at least one non-generic process element comprises context specific method steps or data and is indexed for storage according to the relevant context.

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- 17. (previously presented) An apparatus according to claim 16 wherein the context for at least one non-generic process element is service type.
- 18. (previously presented) An apparatus according to claim 16 wherein the context for at least one non-generic process element is customer type.
- 19. (previously presented) An apparatus as in claim 10 wherein the content introduces new process steps with respect to the generic process plan.
- 20. (previously presented) An apparatus as in claim 10 wherein the content advises existing process steps of the generic process plan.
- 21. (previously presented) A method as in claim 1 wherein the content introduces new process steps with respect to the generic process plan.
- 22. (previously presented) A method as in claim 1 wherein the content advises existing process steps of the generic process plan.